

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0292

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FROM LODGE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VT, VS

SUBJECT: POPE'S EASTER APPEAL FOR VIETNAM

POPE PAUL MADE FOLLOWING IMPASSIONED APPEAL FOR VIETNAM AT
HIS MARCH 26 GENERAL AUDIENCE:

BEGIN QUOTE AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS AUDIENCE WE CANNOT
WITHHOLD OUR VOICE FROM CALLING THE ATTENTION OF THE WORLD TO
THE TRAGIC AND PAINFUL DRAMA OF VIETNAM. AT A TIME WHEN OUR
HEARTS ARE PREPARING FOR THE JOY OF EASTER CELEBRATIONS, A
NATION IS SUFFERING AN INDESCRIBABLE AGONY OF TEARS AND BLOOD
IN A FRIGHTFUL EXODUS WHICH HAS ASSUMED TRULY SERIOUS PROPOR-
TIONS. AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE THE FRUIT OF SO
MANY EFFORTS ONE BELIEVED THAT, THANKS TO A FAIR ACCORD
ENTRUSTED TO THE LOYAL OBSERVANCE OF THE CONFLICTING PARTIES,
THE END HAD COME TO AN ALREADY PROLONGED SUFFERING: NOW INSTEAD
ONE SEES THAT IT ALL SERVED FOR NOTHING: THEY HAVE STARTED
ALL OVER AGAIN* THEY HAVE STARTED SHEDDING BLOOD AGAIN*

IN THE NAME OF HIM WHO CAME TO SAVE MEN, WE EXPRESS OUR PAIN,
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OUR ANXIETY FOR ALL THESE DEAR PEOPLE.

BROTHERS, CHILDREN, AWAITING THE FORTHCOMING EASTER, AND
KNOWING THAT THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN, CHILDREN AND INNOCENT
ONES ARE SUFFERING, LET US DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ALLEVIATE
THE TRAGEDY OF THOSE PEOPLE AND TO PROVIDE THEM EVIDENCE THAT
OUR WORLD IS NOT INDIFFERENT TO THE CRYING OF BROTHERS.

LET US JOIN FORCES IN UNIVERSAL SOLIDARITY. AND LET US
PRAY TO THE LORD, IN WHOSE HANDS RESTS THE FATE OF MEN, THAT
HE COMFORT SUCH ENORMOUS PAIN AND LET THE LIGHT SHINE IN THIS
SAD AND DANGEROUS HOUR FOR MAKIND. UNQUOTE.BEAUDRY

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